

GEN Tommy Franks, commander of the coalition forces engaged in Operation Iraqi Freedom, listens to a question at a Qatar press conference on the first day of the war.

DICTATOR Saddam Hussein's regime is "evil at its heart," President George W. Bush told U.S. Central Command troops at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., shortly after coalition forces invaded Iraq on Mar. 21.

Bush described the campaign against the Iraqi regime as a continuation of America's war on terrorism. He said that instead of waiting for Hussein or his terrorist proxies to deploy weapons of mass destruction against America and its allies, "We are meeting the danger today with our Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines."

"The war," Bush said, "is far from over, but our military is focused and unwavering. We have an effective plan of battle and the flexibility to meet every challenge. Day by day, the Iraqi people are closer to freedom."

— Gary J. Gilmore, Armed Forces Press Service

IMAGES OF WAR



CPT Enrique T. Vasquez

Missile crew members prepare to conduct daily launcher maintenance inspections at a Patriot site.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, stand guard at a forward arming and refueling point inside Iraq.

SPC Robert Woodward



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PFC Joshua Hudson



PFC James Matise



PFC James Matise

CPT Enrique T. Vasquez





(Above, left) LTG William S. Wallace
(left), V Corps commander, talks
with 101st Airborne Division sol-
diers as the division's commander,
MG David H. Petraeus, looks on.

(Far left, center) Soldiers of the
101st Abn. Div. remove their protec-
tive masks after morning training.

(Far left, bottom) SGT Jeremy
Helmes of the 1st Bn., 179th Inf.
Regt., pulls site security for a Pa-
triot missile battery.

(Left) Artillerymen of the 1st Bn.,
377th Field Artillery Regt., train with
their gun at Camp New Jersey, Ku-
wait, days before the outbreak of
war.

(Right) A 101st Abn. Div. CH-47
Chinook lifts communications
equipment belonging to the
division's assault command post.

PFC James Matisse



Reuters/Peter Andrews



SPC Andrew Kosterman



(Above) Soldiers of Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, search a presidential palace in Baghdad on Tuesday, April 8.

(Above, left) Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division search an Iraqi civilian in the town of Kifl, south of Baghdad.

(Left) Paratroopers of the 82nd Abn. Div.'s Co. B, 2nd Bn., 325th Inf., cross a bridge over the Euphrates River at As Samawa during a morning assault on April 4.

(Below, left) An M1 Abrams tank of 4th Bn., 64th Armored Regt., fires into a building behind a Baghdad mosque after taking rocket fire on April 9.

(Right) An 800th Military Police Brigade MP examines a car and its passengers at a checkpoint in southern Iraq on April 1.

(Above, right) An M1 from 2nd Bn., 70th Armd. Regt., takes up a position in the center of Kerbala's downtown area on April 6.



AP photo/John Moore



Soldiers



IMAGES OF WAR



AP photo/John Moore



Reuters/Peter Andrews

SGT Kevin Doheny (main photo)





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Reuters/Goran Tomassvic

(Left) A U.S. soldier watches as a statue of Saddam Hussein is pulled down in Baghdad on April 9.

(Left, center) Coalition troops advancing through An Nasiriyah, Iraq, discovered a chest full of atropine injectors intended to counteract the effects of nerve agents.

(Left, bottom) SPC Joshua Earl of the 220th MP Co. provides security in Southern Iraq's Rumalyah oil field.

(Below) And 82nd Abn. Div. soldier distributes MREs to civilians in Central Iraq on April 5.

(Right) A car burns on a bridge over the Euphrates River near Al Hindiyah, Iraq, captured by elements of the 3rd Inf. Div.

Capt. N.V. Taylor, USMC



SGT Kyran V. Adams



SFC David K. Dismukes





Soldiers





AMERICA

AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM

 Operation Iraqi Freedom “is all a part of the war on terrorism,” said U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul D. Wolfowitz. The United States wouldn’t be risking service members’ lives in Iraq today solely because Saddam Hussein is a dictator — he is a tyrant who threatens everyone with his connections to terrorism, he said.

 Vice President Richard Cheney said the collapse of Saddam Hussein’s regime did not eliminate the possibility of continued hard fighting by coalition forces. Removing the terror regime in Iraq, he stressed, sends a clear message to all terrorist groups. “The United States and our coalition partners are showing that we have the capacity and the will to wage war on terror and to win decisively,” Cheney said. He added that coalition forces will continue to secure cities, protect supply lines and deliver humanitarian aid throughout Iraq.

 In Baghdad, people celebrated the arrival of coalition forces as pockets of regime holdouts continued to be mopped up. British troops secured Basra and made the port of Umm Qasr ready to receive ships carrying humanitarian-aid shipments.

 The defense portion of the fiscal 2003 emergency supplemental budget request is set at \$62.6 billion. The three largest portions of the DOD portion will go to military operations support, \$37.8 billion; personnel and personnel support, \$15.6 billion; and procurement, research and development, \$6.5 billion. Officials estimate the cost of sending troops and equipment to the Iraqi region and returning them home to be at \$30.3 billion. The major conflict phase is estimated to cost \$13.1 billion. The transitional and stability phase, which includes humanitarian supplies, will cost roughly \$12 billion.

